

The actual presenting of evidence is expected to begin two weeks from today.

President Ripley of the Santa Fe R. R. says "Taft is a disappointment."

YARNS OF THE NATIONAL PASTIME

By Billy Evans.

If the Athletics win the American league pennant next year they will, of course, contend for the world's championship again. In this event, I wonder if the old cry, relative to the strength of American league catching staff will be raised?

When the Athletics met the Cubs in 1910, the catchers were most discussed. It seemed the unanimous opinion that Thomas, Lapp and Livingston were outclassed by Kling and Archer. It was predicted the Cubs would have an easy time on the bases. What happened is history. The Athletics presented the thrills. Thomas and Lapp stopped the Cubs without trouble. Kling and Archer had more than their share.

When the fast-going Giants won the right to meet the Athletics this year, it was predicted they would run wild. Meyers was picked to stop the Mackmen. Despite forecasts the Giants did not steal the world's championship. In fact they looked ordinary on the bases, getting four, the same as their rivals.

Ira Thomas is not spectacular, but he is far above the average as a mitt performer. He thinks and acts rapidly and this spells his success. No catcher possesses more mechanical skill than Jack Lapp. With more experience he will stand out in relief among the backstops.

It seems to me Lapp and Thomas should receive more consideration if the team again battles for the big title. They have proven their worth in two desperate struggles.

Connie Mack tells a story on Thomas. While not a tightwad, Ira takes care of his money. He believes that when he is through with the game he ought to have enough to keep him the balance of his days and not be a subject for a benefit game. Some one asked Mack, before the series, if he had any fear about Thomas against the Giants. "None whatever,"

replied the shrewd leader. "You know, there is a winner and loser's end and Ira is bound to be on the long end of the percentage."

Thomas, by the way, has made more money out of world's series games than any other player. He participated in the championship battles with both Detroit and the Athletics.

